report on 22nd December, 1995. The Committee concluded that while private sector participation is feasible in respect of irrigation and multi-purpose projects, it would be desirable to introduce this on pilot basis for selected projects. A copy of the said report has already been sent to all States/Union Territories for necessary action.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Perennial Menace of Floods in Assam

151. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes/projects launched/undertaken/contemplated by the Union Government to overcome the perennial menace of floods in Assam; and

(b) the details of achievement level in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The Union Government had set up the Brahmaputra Board during December, 1981 for carrying out its activities such as survey, investigation and preparation of Master Plans for the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys to work out ways and means for tackling floods, erosion, drainage congestion alongwith integrated development of the basin to ensure proper utilisation of Water Resources. The Master Plans in three parts identify short term and long term measures for flood management in Assam and other North-Eastern States alongwith the benefits like irrigation, hydropower, pisciculture, navigation etc. Part-I covers the main stem of Brahmaputra, Part-II covers Barak and its tributaries and Part-III covers 38 tributaries of Brahmaputra and 8 rivers of Tripura.

(b) The Union Government has approved the Master Plans Part-I and Part-II for implementation of flood moderation schemes by the Assam State and other concerned North Eastern States.

Treaty for Sharing the Ganga Water with Bangladesh

152. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Treaty for sharing the Ganga's waters with Bangladesh has become operative;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been any problems between the two countries in this matter since the Treaty was finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is being done to overcome these problems and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Treaty on the sharing of Ganga Waters at Farakka signed by the two Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh in December, 1996 provides *inter alia* for sharing of water and setting up a Joint Committee to monitor the discharge released to Bangladesh and into the feeder Canal during the lean season starting from 1st January to 31st May every year. This arrangement became operational from 01.01.1997.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The problem arose due to the low flow arrivals of less than 50,000 cusec at Farakka which occurred during last 10 day period of March, 1997. Some difficulty was also experienced in sudden lowering and raising of gates when allowing higher alternate flows for 10 day period during the lean season. The Government of India immediately initiated action and held discussions with Bangladesh on the adjustments to be made for the sharing arrangements in compliance with Article II (iii) of the